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Soviets' Embassy Spying Massive, Weinberger Says

Intrusion Compared to '79 Tehran Takeover

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Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger said yesterday that Soviet espionage operations in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow are massive, comparing the intrusions to the Iranian seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

"What is especially revealing about this Soviet intrusion into our embassy . . . is its massive nature," Weinberger said at the annual Navy League conference here. "It seems to me to be quite comparable to Iran's actions in seizing our embassy in Tehran."

As Weinberger delivered his condemnation of Soviet espionage tactics, a military judicial officer at Quantico Marine Base granted delays in the hearings of two Marine security guards accused of espionage in connection with the expanding investigation of security breaches at U.S. embassies. The hearings, called Article 32 hearings, are designed to determine whether the two guards should be court-martialed.

The hearing officer accepted a request from Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree's attorneys to recess the evidentiary hearing in his case after two days of testimony until May 11. The attorneys for Lonetree, who is accused of espionage for allegedly allowing Soviet agents into the Moscow embassy where he worked as a security guard, said they needed more time to examine new evidence in the case.

The hearing officer also agreed to delay until next Thursday the Article 32 hearing for Cpl. Arnold Bracy, 21, accused of working with Lonetree in the alleged espionage operation. Bracy's hearing began yesterday but was postponed after attorneys said they needed more time to orient a newly appointed military defense attorney for Bracy, according to a Marine Corps spokesman.

Weinberger, in his most extensive public comments on the new

revelations of espionage involving Marine security guards, accused the Soviets of "ruthless . . . behavior."

In his speech Weinberger sidestepped any direct comments on the ongoing Marine investigation, and he later declined to comment on the security losses the United States may have suffered as a result

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of the alleged cooperation of U.S. embassy guards with Soviet spies.

Maj. Robert Nourie, the officer conducting the Article 32 hearing to determine whether the military has enough evidence to prosecute Lonetree on two espionage and 22 other charges, agreed to delay the proceedings only after sternly warning attorneys that they should not publicly discuss any aspect of the case, according to William M. Kunstler, one of Lonetree's civilian attorneys.

"The secretary of defense, the president and everybody else has spouted off about Sgt. Lonetree and others and now they want to keep us from responding," Kunstler complained to reporters after eight hours of closed testimony in a basement vault at Quantico.

Lonetree's attorneys said they requested the delay because the Naval Investigative Service, which is conducting the military espionage investigation, gave them at midnight Wednesday the statements of additional Marine personnel who are being recalled to Quantico to produce evidence in the widening investigation of the 1,300-Marine security force.